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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,727	07/09/2003	Lee R. Bolduc	018558-0001710US	2627
32746	7590	11/17/2004		
HOEKENDIJK & LYNCH, LLP P.O. BOX 4787 BURLINGAME, CA 94011-4787				
EXAMINER THANH, LOAN H				
ART UNIT 3763				
PAPER NUMBER				
DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/616,727

Applicant(s)

BOLDUC ET AL.

Examiner

LoAn H. Thanh

Art Unit

3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 and 35-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 35-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 and 49-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07/09/03 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 35-48 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 07/03/04.

An action on the merits now follows.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant is requested to update the status of the parent applications claimed in the first paragraph of the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: Reference numerals described in the specification are not all in the drawing of figure 23. (such as 802,816,818,842) Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being

amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to because reference numeral 822 is in the drawing but not in the specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 63 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim has additional punctuation. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 68 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saab (US 5,499,973).

Saab discloses an intravascular device comprising a shaft having at least 4 sections of varying stiffness and a lumen extending through the shaft. See figure 2.

Claim 68 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (US 5,531,719).

Takahashi discloses an intravascular device comprising a shaft having at least 4 sections of varying stiffness and a lumen extending through the shaft. See figure 1-2.

Claims 49-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horrigan et al. (US 5,792,124).

Horrigan et al. disclose an intravascular device comprising a shaft having a lumen therethrough, a reinforcing layer 35, a first jacket 20, a second jacket 15 and a third jacket 25. The first, second and third jackets having a durometer of 35, 55 and 72 D respectively. See figures 3,6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over
Horrigan et al. (US 5,792,124).

Horrigan et al. disclose an intravascular device comprising a PTFE liner layer 40, and a reinforcing layer wound over the liner layer 35 and a jacket 15, 20,25. Horrigan et al. discloses the different durometers/ flexibility of the jacket 15,20,25. However, Horrigan et al. does not disclose the PTFE material to be expanded PTFE. As defined by applicant "expanded PTFE" provides flexibility. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the material of Horrigan et al. to employ materials which have the desired the properties. since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended uses as a matter of obvious engineering choice lacking any criticality. In re Leshin , 125 USPQ 416.

Another interpretation of the is as follows:

The liner is considered to be 15,20 and 40 , a reinforcing layer is considered 35, and the jacket is considered to be 40. Horrigan et al. disclose the liner to be made of various flexibilities (i.e. having different durometers) of PEBAX. However, Horrigan

does not teach expanded PTFE or etched PTFE. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ materials which have the desired the properties. since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended uses as a matter of obvious engineering choice lacking any criticality. In re Leshin , 125 USPQ 416.

Claims 51-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Horrigan et al. (US 5,792,124).


Horrigan et al. discloses the invention as substantially claimed. However, Horrigan et al. does not disclose the specifics of the longitudinal distance separating the jackets, or having a fourth, fifth and sixth jacket. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the distances between the jackets to provide different flexibility in order to traverse the tortuous vascular system. With respect to the additional jackets, it would have been obvious to add more jackets as a duplication/multiplication of parts performing the same function in order to increase the variable flexibility of the catheter to traverse the tortuous vessels.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LoAn H. Thanh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4966. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (First Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Lucchesi can be reached on (571) 272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LoAn H. Thanh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3763

LT